

# TRUTH

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## FRAUDS BEING EXPOSED

Former Governor Wells last Tuesday told the investigating committee of the house of representatives of the forgeries of Brigadier General John Q. Cannon, formerly adjutant general of this state; formerly editor of the Deseret News; formerly commander of the national guard; formerly secretary of the St. Louis exposition commission. In the light of the revelations of the ex-chief executive it is little wonder that the hero of Scofield and of Sunnyside has beaten a retreat and is now secluding himself somewhere, because the testimony adduced at the hearing appears to be sufficient to cause his arrest and punishment.

No one need marvel that John Q. has hiked away to other climes, for the atmosphere of almost any place will be more congenial than that of Utah. He is certainly up against it and up against it hard. It is manifest from the testimony that during his term of office he forged orders to the amount of \$2,078.27; and that he was the beneficiary of every order, although one was made payable to Oblad & Knight. Former Governor Wells identified every one of the twenty orders as forgeries, saying:

"At a cursory glance all the orders mentioned appear to be regular, but the signatures of my name are forgeries."

The witness also stated that Cannon, in the presence of John M. Cannon and Joseph S. Wells, stated: "Your signature is on the orders, but you did not write it."

The peculations of John Q. Cannon appear to have begun as early as October 10, 1903, and continued until June 14, 1904. The smallest amount was \$6.35; the largest \$293.15.

It appears from the evidence that John Q. began to get a bit scared as the year 1904 drew to a close. The scare increased as the time for the legislature drew near and he confided his troubles to his brother, who tried to help him out. Treasurer Johnson testified that John M. Cannon had offered to make good the amount taken from the fund through the medium of the forged orders, if he, Johnson, would turn over the forged instruments. Subsequently General Cannon's attorneys asked, or demanded, these papers, and when they were refused, requested they be deposited in bank.

Nothing was brought out about the interview between Governor Wells and John Q. Cannon in the presence of Joseph S. Wells and John M. Cannon, except as above stated. It is learned, however, that on that day Governor Wells berated John Q. in unmeasured terms, declaring that he

had been a dead weight on his hands for twenty years; that despite the fact that he, Wells, had endeavored to help him along; had honored him with positions of trust; in the case of the secretaryship of the commission had alienated the newspaper men of the city, who unanimously petitioned for the appointment of M. J. Cunningham, by turning the newspaper man down. Cannon had gone back on him and had been a "millstone around his neck." He upbraided him, so it is said, with every dishonorable act committed during the time mentioned. Under all of which John Q. sat mute and silent.

Questioned as to what had become of the money, Cannon replied that it had been used for regular expenses of his family; that he had not drank nor gambled it away.

The disclosures of the witnesses were of such a startling nature that the members of the house have decided to investigate everything connected with the affair thoroughly. They will also go into the affair of the Carbon county "war," where General Cannon was in command, and will ask that every voucher and warrant be produced, in order that a complete detail of expenditures may be had. The land office will also be examined and its affairs probed.

A prominent country member of the house stated to Truth that he and his country associates believed it was high time to examine everything thoroughly. "This affair is a good hint to us to go into matters and see what has become of the money. There has been an evident looseness in the handling of cash that should be stopped, and we are going to probe to the bottom, if we have to appoint a committee and continue it until after the session is ended."

The disclosures of Tuesday and since are such as to place in a very unenviable light the senate which passed a resolution thanking the exposition commission for its work, and especially declaring the belief that not a cent had been "stolen, lost or squandered." Senator Johnson's statement to the senate and his testimony on the stand do not dovetail very nicely, either, while the attitude of the first committee in trying to explain matters away and cover up offense is particularly peculiar.

The county attorney is expected to take immediate steps for the extradition of Cannon, who is said to be in Honolulu. That being United States territory, there would be little difficulty in getting him.

Truth is endorsed by every good citizen in the state in its demand that an investigation of everything con-

nected with the handling of state funds be had. It is due to the officials themselves who have handled affairs of state honestly, and the public is entitled to know what has been done. Let the light be turned on. Let the guilty ones be punished in every instance. Too much condoning of offenses by men in high places has been indulged in. The common thief is railroaded to the pen; the rich man's son is entitled to no more consideration.

Nor should those who cover up offense go free. Compounding a felony is a grave offense against the majesty of the law. No favoritism ought to be shown. Had Cunningham been appointed secretary and committed the offense charged he would be in jail while his friends would be trying to hustle bonds for him. Play no favorites, but let justice be done.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Here is the full text of the bill introduced in the state senate by Mr. Lawrence to compel news gathering agencies as quasi public corporations to furnish their service to any one publishing a newspaper who is willing to pay for it. This measure is one of great importance to the people of Utah. As things are now there is neither a Democratic nor a Republican daily paper in the capital of the state, and there can't be until the monopoly enjoyed by the two mongrel personal organs which masquerade as exponents of Democratic and Republican principles is broken.

The bill as introduced reads as follows:

An act to prevent unjust discrimination against publishers of newspapers, by persons, association of persons, and corporations engaged in the business of gathering and distributing for publication, information or news, and declaring such combination to be unlawful.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Utah:

1. That all persons, all associations of persons, and all corporations engaged in the business of buying, gathering, or accumulating information or news for publication, and vending, supplying, distributing or disseminating the same for publication, either to its members or otherwise, shall be deemed to be engaged in a business upon which a public interest is ingrafted, and shall make no distinction with respect to newspaper publishers desiring to purchase such news or information for publication.

2. It shall be unlawful for any person, association of persons, or corporations engaged in gathering and furnishing news for publication, to make any discrimination or distinction with respect to a person or corporation engaged in publishing a newspaper.

3. Any combination by persons having for its object or effect the controlling of information or news gathered or accumulated, for distribution and publication, shall be deemed a trust, and hostile to the public welfare, and is prohibited and declared unlawful.

4. All persons, associations of persons, and corporations engaged in the business of gathering and disseminating information or news for publication by its members, or stockholders, or otherwise, shall be deemed to be engaged in a business in which the public is interested, and shall furnish such news to any and all newspapers desiring to publish the same at the same price as charged to the members of said association, or corporation, or stockholders of any such corporation, without discrimination between the members or stockholders and such newspapers desiring to publish such information and news; and shall render equal and impartial service to all publishers of newspapers who shall offer to pay a reasonable price therefor.

5. That any contract or agreement in violation of the provisions of this act, shall be absolutely void and not enforceable either in law or equity.

6. In all actions brought under this act, it shall be sufficient to prove that a trust or combination as defined herein, exists, and that the defendant belonged to it, or acted for or in connection with it, without proving or producing any article or agreement, or any written instrument on which it may have been based, or that it was evidenced by any written instrument at all. The character of the trust or combination alleged may be established by proof of its general reputation as such.

7. All telephone and telegraph companies employed to transmit such information or news shall be deemed to be agents of such persons and corporations, and all legal process may be served by the officers of the law upon such telephone and telegraph companies; and an offer to pay a reasonable price to said telephone or telegraph companies shall be equivalent to an offer to pay the same to the persons or corporations gathering and disseminating such information or news.

The word "person" or "persons" wherever used in this act, shall be deemed to include corporations, companies and associations, existing under or authorized by either the laws of the United States, or of any of the territories, any state or any foreign state.

There is much merit in the senate bill presented by Senator Wesley K. Walton, which obviates the necessity of a complete new registration of voters every four years. The bill, as we understand it, provides that those who voted at the previous election will be carried on the rolls for the next elec-